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EXTERNAL SURVEY DETACHMENT 44
UNITED STATES NAVY
Peiping, China

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COUNTRY : China (Manchuria)

REPORT NUMBER : ZCP-760

ORIGIN : New Mexico

DATE OF INFO : 16 August 1946

SUBJECT : Lt. Gen. SAITO Yabehida

DATE OF REPORT: 16 November 1947

REPORTING O.: []

DATE OF REPORT: 2 December 1947

SOURCE : []

EVALUATION : F-6

SUBSOURCE: See below

PAGES : 2

ATTACHMENTS : None

Note on Subsource: The originator of the information contained in this report is Captain FUJIHARA (藤 房), a Japanese ^{officer} formerly attached

to the Staff Officers Section of the Fourth Military Headquarters at

Qiqihar (123-54, 47-23). ^{Source left} On 13 September 1947 FUJIHARA ran away from

Harbin and arrived in Changchun on 17 October 1947 ^{where} present he is in

the Changchun Refugee Concentration ^{(currently, report) an} Camp under the assumed name of

KAWAGUCHI, Tadao (川 田 雄). This information is a little old,

but since the subsource is a trained observer we feel some value may be

attached to the report. ^{Source was told the following by the}

^{Japanese officer who escaped execution (See below)}

1. Lt. General SAITO was killed by the Chinese Communists in Chiamussu on 15 August 1946.

The Chinese Communists announced in Chiamussu that General SAITO, Yabehida and two other subordinates would be put on trial as war criminals in Chiamussu on 15 August 1946 (Surrender Commemoration Day).

As a result of this trial, the three of them were sentenced to death. ^(See supplemented report which states that SAITO surrendered to the CC in September 1946) Just prior to their ^{execution} one of them, the former manager of the old

Japan-Manchukuo Commercial Company, was able to escape through the assistance of ^{followers of} the HSIEN WEN TUNG (謝文東) faction. However, the

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other two were killed on that day.

(TOAS #2 Note: The above is what was related to subsource in Harbin

by the person who had run away. Subsource would not reveal the name of the person who had run away, probably for fear of putting him in danger.

Hsieh Wen-tung is the name of the head of a ^{chief} bandit who opposed ~~the~~

Japanese policy during the Manchukuo regime, but later, ^{because he was} ~~well-treated by the~~ ^{allied} Japanese, he renewed his allegiance to

the Japanese army. ~~after that~~ ^{several positions in NSIA} The Japanese army helped both he and his

subordinates ~~to jobs~~. Hsieh Wen-tung was given a public position, and ~~as~~

he felt this benevolence, he began to work very hard for the Japanese army.

(The Harbin Tokuma Kikan used him in intelligence and counter-intelligence

work in the eastern border regions of the country. The reasons was that

^{Heck} he was the "boss" of the eastern border regions such as Putankiang, ^{ch}

Chiamussu, Tungun, etc. He also had a great many former subordinates,

and had the faith of the people in that region. After the surrender he was in

the eastern border regions, and ~~he~~ saved a great many Japanese from the

oppressions of the ^{Secret} ~~Russian~~ Army. Also, after the surrender, he assembled

~~together~~ his former subordinates, and ~~included~~ some Japanese in his group,

and has been carrying on an army construction movement ^{(?) along with} as he carries out

his banditry. (Note: This is probably the same

Hsieh Wen-tung ^{mentioned in} ~~previously~~ reported a leader of Nationalist "Irregular" troops and a subordinate of MA Chou-shan.)

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for paragraph 1:

Source, Japanese officer formerly attached to the Staff Officers Section of the (Communist) Fourth Military Headquarters at Chiamussu (123-54, 47-23). Source left Harbin in September 1947, and arrived in Changchun on 17 October 1947.

where he is living in the refugee concentration camp (currently reported)

under an assumed name. Source was told the following information on 16 August in Harbin:

by the Japanese who escaped execution (see below).

1. Lt. General SAITO, Yaheida was killed by Chinese Communists in Chiamussu on 15 August 1946. The Communists announced that General SAITO and two subordinates would be put on trial as war criminals on 15 August (Surrender Commemoration Day). ~~xxxxxxx~~ They were found guilty and sentenced to death. Prior to the execution, one of the three, the former manager of the old Japan-Manchukuo Commercial Company, was able to escape through the assistance of HSIEH Wen-tung's men, but the other two were executed. ^{on 15 August.} [] Note: See portion of supplemented report, C-2} ~~xxxxxxx~~ which indicates that SAITO surrendered to the Communists in September 1946.)

Source for paragraph 2: Toas #2

2. HSIEH Wen-tung () is a "bandit chief" who opposed Japanese policy in Manchukuo in the beginning but later went over to the Japanese ~~side~~ and was given a position by them. The Harbin Tokumu Kikan used him ^{for intelligence (in} ~~to~~ work along ^{with the people} the eastern border regions ~~of the~~ country - in Mutanchiang, Chiamussu, Tungan, etc., where he had subordinates and much influence. After the surrender, HSIEH, ~~who~~ ^{was in that area,} was able to save many Japanese from ^{capture by} the Soviet army. He assembled his former subordinates and some Japanese and has been carrying on an army construction movement (?) along with his banditry." □ Note: HSIEH is probably the same ^{man} person as the HSIEH Wen-tung mentioned in previous reports as a ^{commander certain} ~~leader~~ of Nationalist "Irregular" Forces and a subordinate of MA Chan-shan.)